



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

PATENT #6

Application No.: 10/076,923) Date: August 15, 2003
Applicant: Pietro Padovani) Examiner: Steven A. Bratlie
Filed: 02/14/2002) Group Art Unit 3652
For: "Handling Apparatus for) Our Ref: B-4502
Thermoformed Object Stacks ...") (619523-5)

Commissioner for Patents
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Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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Sir:

This paper is filed in response to the Office Action dated July 24, 2003. **All remarks herein are made without prejudice.**

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner sets forth a restriction/election requirement, asserting that Fig. 3, Fig. 4 and Figs. 17-19 correspond to three patentably distinct species. This requirement is respectfully **traversed**. However, since it is a mandatory requirement to at least provisionally elect one of the species, the Applicant hereby **provisionally elect Fig. 4** for prosecution in this Application. Claims 1-9 are readable on Fig. 4.

It is noted that the United States Patent Law does not require that